industry. But however rapidly industrial development may proceed there can be no doubt that for very many years to come the great majority of the people of this State will depend upon some form of agriculture for their livelihood, and we are taking particular care to plan suitable developments in respect of agriculture and the activities connected with it. By irrigation works we hope to bring more land under irrigation and to enable two crops to be grown on land which now can only grow one. We are putting a little money into the Travancore Fertilisers and Chemicals undertaking, and securing a lien on part of the product of that factory. We are trying ways and means of improving the condition of livestock, and encouraging the rearing of improved breeds of pigs, goats and poultry. We also contemplate—and have again I think it will be to advantage of this State to work in co-operation with Travancore—the development of our fisheries, both deep-sea fishing, back-water fishing and fresh-water fishing in the rivers and tanks. The Travancore Government have invited us to participate in their scheme for research in this direction, and I think it will be to the advantage of the people of this State to contribute something to the cost of the Travancore research and to send some candidates from this State to take part in the work. We have to develop our forests on scientific lines and, in particular, to restore all over the State village forests sufficient to provide fuel, green manure and other necessities for the rural population. We hope to improve communications, both by rail, by road and by water, and to organise directly or indirectly adequate and efficient transport services throughout the State. This list is not exhaustive, but I hope it is sufficient to substantiate my claim that our plans for post-war development are comprehensive.

Plans of this magnitude must inevitably involve the expenditure of large sums of money, and perhaps it may be useful if I give some indication of the manner in which the Government contemplate the financing of these undertakings. I have already mentioned our Revenue Reserve which now exceeds Rs. 70 lakhs. We hope that by the time it becomes necessary to spend money on post-war development, the large sums locked up by the operations of the Food Supplies Department will have been released and that the whole of this amount will become available for expenditure. We expect shortly to receive back the sixty and odd lakhs of rupees which we have invested on the construction of the harbour. We also propose this year to raise a loan, taking advantage of the availability of surplus money. We reckon that by these means we should be able at once to lay our hands on something like Rs. 3 crores, and this should be more than enough to enable us to make a substantial start on our development schemes. The resources of the State are quite sufficient to support further loans if they are required. It remains to be seen how our revenues will be maintained when the special circumstances arising out of the war, which have enhanced them in the last few years, disappear. At present they are ample to meet all our needs. But prudence requires that we should be ready with proposals to fill any gap which may in future declare itself between revenue and expenditure. The financial position of the State is strong and grows stronger every year. I hope that this may continue after the war is over. Mean-while as we prepare our plans for post-war developments, we must bear in mind that an improvement in the general standard of living among all classes of the population, which is the object we have set before ourselves, cannot be achieved without a considerable increase of expenditure which in turn can only be met out of expanding revenues.

In conclusion I should like to acknowledge with gratitude the friendly co-operation we continue to receive from our neighbours—the Province of Madras, and the State of Travancore. I hope that in the matter of these post-war developments particularly, this State will work in collaboration with its neighbours and not in isolation. At the invitation of the Diwan of Travancore we have already initiated periodical discussions with that State regarding our plans and it is clear that there is much scope for co-operation to the mutual advantage of both States. I also wish to acknowledge the constant help and encouragement the Government receives from the Resident for the Madras States and through him from the Government of India. In respect of these post-war developments, the Government of India has been of the greatest help in keeping the State informed of their proposals in offering help and encouragement of every sort and, more particularly, in providing facilities for candidates from the State to obtain the specialised training necessary to equip them for the work which lies ahead of them. It is my hope that the measures for which provision is made in this budget may lead to the greater hapiness and prosperity of all the subjects of His Highness the Maharaja.

PANEL OF CHAIRMAN—ANNOUNCEMENT OF

Mr. President: I announce that I have nominated the following members as the Panel of Chairman.—

1. Mr. A. Eachara Menon.
2. Mr. P. M. Mayankutty.

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Mr. Parambi Lonappen *(Minister for Rural Development):*

Mr. President, Sir,

The privilege of presenting the Budget estimates for the year 1121 for the transferred subjects has devolved on me as Minister for Rural Development. The total amount allotted to my departments is Rs. 22,87,800 out of an estimated total revenue of the State amounting to Rs. 294,25,300. It would be seen that one-thirteenth of the total revenue has been set apart for welfare work in the rural areas. The credit, if any, for preparing the budget goes to my predecessor for I took charge as Minister only on the 11th of July 1945. If I find during my tenure of office that additional grants are necessary for pressing welfare work in the villages, I intend to approach the House and I do hope that the House would give its support and co-operation. I do not propose to trespass upon the valuable time of this House by a detailed narration of how I propose to distribute the amounts already ear-marked for the various departments under me. I propose, however, to give a concise review of the activities of some of the departments under my control and to indicate briefly the salient features of the budget. Health is wealth, and, therefore, I shall give precedence to Public Health.

Public Health.—For better administration and more efficient supervision the departments of Public Health and Panchayats were bifurcated on the 1st Chingam 1120. The proposal to revive the Health Centres which were abolished in 1939 has been under consideration for some time and it has been decided to open two Health Centres this year. A statistician, specially trained in the office of the Director of Public Health, Madras, has been put in charge of the newely organised statistical section in the Office of the Director of Public Health, for the proper registration and accurate compilation of vital statistics in the State. The scheme to provide at least one mid-wife in each Panchayat has progressed to such an extent that sixty-six Panchayats have now been provided with mid-wives, and arrangements have been made to train ten more next year. The remaining eleven Panchayat areas will be supplied with mid-wives in the course of one or two years. The stipend given to the midwifery trainees has been enhanced from Rs. 10 to Rs. 15 as in the case of the first year pupil nurses and all the qualified mid-wives have been placed on a graded pay of rupees sixteen to thirty.

In addition to the anti-malarial operations carried on in Chittur Taluk with satisfactory results, a comprehensive scheme of anti-malarial campaign has been taken up by constructing temporary sluices across rivers and streams in the Nelliampathy areas under the direct supervision of the Malariologist and the Assistant Engineer of Panchayats. Based on the results obtained from these temporary constructions and experimental operations, it is proposed to launch the scheme of constructing permanent sluices in these areas. The eradication of malaria will open out vast areas for cultivation and will make it even possible to develop the Nelliampathies into a popular hill station.

During the outbreak of plague at Trichur there were twelve attacks of which eight proved fatal. Effective and prompt steps taken by the Department brought the disease under control within a short period. Small-pox broke out in almost all taluks but was controlled by systematic mass vaccination. Necessary steps to arrest the growth of hook-worm in Cranganur have been taken and a good number of latrines are being constructed in the affected areas.

A nutrition survey is being conducted by the Medical Officer for Epidemics. As part of the post-war development scheme the establishment of a Public Health laboratory in a central place and Health Centres in various parts of the State are now under the consideration of Government.

Panchayats.—Since the amalgamation of the deparments of Public Health and Panchayats in 1110 the activities of both the departments increased to such an extent that it was found difficult for one Head of the Department to manage and control the work of both these departments. As already stated, a bifurcation of the two departments was thereupon effected and the Panchayat Department was placed under an independent officer with the designation of Director of Panchayats. Greater powers are now being exercised by the Panchayats in the administration of local affairs and the bill passed by the Council at the last session to make these bodies self-governing units has received the gracious assent of His Highness the Maharaja. This Act which will be brought into effect in the next financial year well be a land mark in the history of the development of Panchayat administration in the State. Provision has been made in the budget placed before the Council for the appointment of full time clerks in all the eighty-seven Panchayats to cope with the increasing activities of the panchayats and to properly maintain the offices. The control of avenues is now vested in the Panchayats and the distribution of manure to ryots on credit system is conducted by them.

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The Minor Irrigation Scheme was started in the year 1118. As a result of the completion of various irrigation works large areas have been newly brought under cultivation and extensive single crop lands have been converted into double crop lands. The Allotment for 1118 was Rs. 1,70,000 for 1119 Rs. 1,85,000 and for the current year Rs. 1,75,000. Many works taken up in these years are now under various stages of execution and for their completion in the coming year a special contribution of Rs. 3,25,000 has been provided in the budget. It is expected that all the works would be completed in 1121, thereby enabling a new programme to be chalked out in 1122. The policy of departmental execution of works through the Panchayats was continued in the current year as it was found to be a great success both on grounds of finance and efficiency.

The scheme of starting village libraries has been progressing satisfactorily from year to year. Twenty new libraries were started in 1120 and provision has been made for 20 more for the next year thus raising their number to 221.

Ayurveda.—The large number of patients resorting to the Ayurvedic institutions in the State bear striking testimony to the growing popularity and increasing usefulness of the Ayurvedic system of treatment. With the starting of Taluk Ayurvedic Hospitals at Ernakulam, Azhikode, Kodakara, Tattamangalam and Cheruthuruthi the activities of the department increased considerably and to cope with this increase of work the staff, wherever necessary, was strengthened. To cater to the needs of the women patients in the Ernakulam Hospital, a lady physician has been appointed and very soon an eye physician will also be posted to this hospital. Facilities for medical aid for the rural population were further extended by starting five new vaidyasalas at Kolazhi, Alur, Tolur, Porkulam and Panancheri. To meet the increased requirements the provision under cost of medicines and dietary charges has been raised, and five more vaidyasalas are proposed to be opened next year. Honorary visitors are proposed to be appointed to each of the taluk hospitals. The Board of Examiners constituted this year for conducting Ayurvedic examination in the State conducted the first examination, and 22 candidates appeared for the same.

The establishment of Sales Depots was an important land mark in the progress of Ayurvedic treatment in the State. The progress of the Depots at Trichur, Ernakulam Trippunittura, Chelakkara and Thiruvilwamala has been satisfactory; and arrangements are being made to open depots wherever there is need for them. The various institutions under the department have been greatly benefitted by the valuable advice and guidance received from the Ayurvedic Board and the Purchasing Committee attached to the Trichur R. V. C. A. Hospital. The increase of work in the Sales Section has necessitated the strengthening of the staff and also additions to the machinery and equipments. The construction of additional sheds and store rooms for the manufacturing section is now under consideration. To effect quick transport of medicines to the depots and hospitals a motor van has been purchased. The Accountant of the Sales Section has been recently got trained in commercial accountancy. For maintaining better efficiency the appointment of a business manager in the manufacturing section is under the consideration of Government.

Agriculture.—During recent years the problem of augmenting the food resources has received the increased attention of all Governments. The 'Grow More Food Campaign', started immediately after the cessation of import of rice from Burma, continued with vigour and enthusiasm and large uncultivated areas were brought under cultivation as a result of this campaign. With unabated vigour this is proposed to be continued not only to meet the exigencies of the time but also in the era of readjustment after the cessation of hostilities.

In the next year's budget a provision of Rs. 4 lakhs has been made towards the purchase of manure and implements. The abnormal rise in the prices of iron implements placed a great strain on the agricultural population. But with the assistance of the Central Government 110 tons of iron and steel were obtained in the current year and with the help of the local manufacturers agricultural implements are now being manufactured and sold to the ryots at rates even lower than half the market price. To expedite the manufacture and supply of these implements and to effect their easy and equitable distribution among the agricultural population a special officer has been appointed.

The cattle requirements of our State were being met by imports from the Madras Province and Mysore. The increased demand for animals for milk, cultivation and transport created an acute situation and the imposition of a ban on the export of cattle from these places caused great hardship to the agriculturists. As a result of the negotiations carried on with the Government of Madras a quota for the export of 100 animals per month from Coimbatore District to Cochin State was sanctioned. The present supply being inadequate to meet the growing requirements of the State negotiations are still being carried on with the Madras Government through the Combined Cattle Board of South India to get this quota increased.

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Steps are being taken to encourage the development of cattle breeding and dairying on proper and efficient lines. The present idea is to have at least one pedigree stud bull in every Panchayat and Municipal area. At Government expense or with Government grant stud bulls are at present maintained in 35 stations distributed throughout the State.

Cochin State is a deficit area as regards cattle food, especially cotton seed, and the ban on its export from Madras has considerably augmented the difficulties in finding fodder for our cattle. Negotiations are being carried on with the Government of Madras to allow us a large quota of cotton seed.

Government have started an experimental Dairy in the Central Farm on a small scale, and at present it is able to supply daily 200 lbs. of milk. It is gratifying to note that certain private Dairy Farms in the State are functioning satisfactorily and helping to increase milk production. The Veterinary Surgeons of the localities where the dairy farms are established are rendering necessary aid to them.

In spite of the prohibition imposed on the slaughter of good cows, it is found that their number is gradually decreasing. In order to save the cows which, when they go dry, are neglected due to high maintenance charges, it is proposed to open a salvage farm for dry cows in the Nelliampathies where facilities will be provided for a herd of fifty cows to be properly maintained and looked after on payment of a nominal fee. It is also proposed to give financial help for starting three private dry-cow-salvage-centres in each of which twenty-five dry cows will be maintained and a stud bull stationed. A small fee will be realised from the owners of the cows and to each centre the contribution from the Government will be Rs. 450. When compared with the benefits realised by the opening of those salvage centres, the expenditure should be deemed as small. Encouragement and assistance to open more centres will be given, if the scheme meets with success.

For increasing the food supply in the State, cultivation of fruits and English vegetables was started in the Nelliampathies towards the close of 1119. An area of 100 acres was cleared and planted first and its extent was later on increased to 550 acres in 1120. In the new clearances orange trees has been planted in 400 acres and in the remaining area of 50 acres miscellaneous fruit trees like mango, sapota, pine-apple, plantain, plum, peas and grape and a variety of tropical and sub-tropical fruit trees have been planted. The isolated orange trees in the Nelliampathy estates are giving high yields of oranges of very good variety. The plantation that we have started, it is expected, will prove to be a great success and a valuable asset to the State when the trees come to full bearing for which eight or nine years will be required. Experiments with the planting of potatoes and exotic vegetables were conducted on a fairly large scale during the year with satisfactory and encouraging results. The Agricultural Department has made arrangements to launch a programme of planting 200 acres with potatoes in August-September and another 200 acres during next April. It has also undertaken a programme of vegetable cultivation to supply at least 1,000 pounds of exotic veretables daily for military and civilian consumption. Fairly satisfactory returns to the Government are expected from 1121 onwards.

Agricultural education.—After a lapse of four years the school at the Central Farm for the training of candidates in agriculture has been revived. Twenty students of the school final standard are now given training there with a view to have sufficient number of qualified men to work as demonstrators and field men in the several post-war schemes proposed to be undertaken by the Agricultural Department. Provision has been made in the budget for continuing the school in 1121.

Taluk Farm at Chittur.—The conditions in the Chittur Taluk being different from those prevailing elsewhere in the State in respect of soil, rainfall and climate, necessity was felt to open a Taluk Farm there to demonstrate scientific methods of agricultural operations, to multiply and distribute seeds of improved varieties of the several crops of the locality such as rice, cotton, ground nut, millets, etc., and to conduct experiments to tackle the different problems that are peculiar to the Chittur Taluk. An experimental farm has been found necessary to give effect also to the proposal to introduce tobacco cultivation. The necessity to open similar farms in other parts of the State is being investigated.

Veterinary.—For more efficient administration of the Departments of Agriculture and Veterinary, a bifurcation of the two departments was effected on the 1st of Chingam 1120 and the Veterinary Department was placed under the charge of an independent head. Two Veterinary Surgeons have been sent for training in conducting experiments on "artificial insemination" of cows and two others have been selected to undergo advanced training in animal

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husbandry and dairying. In order to give cheap and ready veterinary aid to ryots it is proposed to train a few stock-men-compounders in the elements of veterinary science and to post them in different parts of the State.

Industries.—The development of cottage industries continued to be one of the main activities of the Industrial Department. Some of these industries are organised on co-operative lines. By paying loans and grants and by lending the services of paid secretaries at Government expense proper engagement and necessary assistance are given to all the forty Industrial Co-operative Societies that are engaged in the development of cottage industries. Weaving is the most popular industry. A few societies have taken up carpentry work and manufacture of leather goods and jaggery. Under the direct supervision of the department bamboo mat and basket making industries on which large numbers of depressed class people depend have been organised at Nadathra and Vadakkancheri.

The Rural Development Centre at Cherpu was converted into an Industrial Centre in 1119 and four industrial co-operative societies are working in the Centre. In addition to the industries conducted by the Carpenters' Co-operative Society, the Leather Workers' Co-operative Society, the Vilkurup Co-operative Society and the All Cochin Khadi Co-operative Society there are other industries directly managed by Government such as dyeing and printing making of lace garlands, caps and tooth powder. Oil pressing, working of design, shirting and coating and making of slates. All of them, except the dyeing and printing industry, for which there is difficulty to secure necessary materials, are thriving well, and the record of progresss in the Industrial Centre has been satisfactory. The success of the newly started brush making industry cannot be determined now. Proposals for the starting of new industries like the purification of white clay, manufacture of chalk and glass bangles, carpet making, etc., are under consideration and investigation. Through the agency of the Cochin Cottage Industries Co-operative Marketing Society goods manufactured by Industrial Co-operative Societies are being disposed of expeditiously and lively interest in this activity is taken by the newly reconstituted board of management of the Marketing Society.

In spite of various facilities afforded and inducements given for industrial training in schools the strength of the Industrial Schools has gone down. Four of the Industrial Schools have been entrusted to Industrial Co-operative Societies as an experimental measure for running them on a factory basis. This experiment has proved successful.

The Government Trades School at Ernakulam which had only a small number of sutdents was abolished and a comericial Institute with arrangements to coach up students for thr R. A. Course has been started in its place. The Government Trades School at Trichur has been reorganised as a school of Arts and Crafts with provisinn to teach fine arts, engraving, metal work, carving and electroplating. The re-organistion of these two institutions to meet the growing and changing demands of the time will prove highly beneficial to the public.

Co-operation.—Based on the recommendations of the Co-operative Enquiry Committee Government have decided to effect certain changes and reforms in the working of the Co-operative Department in 1121. The decrees passed by the Registrar will be executed in future by the Department itself. Acting on the recommendations of the Committee it has been ordered that all the Co-operative Societies should be compulsorily affiliated to supervising Unions, each consisting of three elected and two nomitated members. It is expected that these changes would accelerate the progress of co-operative movement in the State.

To make available to the public at controlled rates such consumers' goods as stationery, toilet, sago, flakes, blades, etc., the Co-operative Department has organised two Victory shops, one at Ernakulam and the other at Trichur. These have become very popular institutions and their activities have met with phenomenal success. Most of the Co-operative stores in the rural areas are also conducting licensed shops for the distribution of food-stuffs to the public.

Village Courts.—For the speedy and efficient administration of justice in the rural parts the Panchayat Courts were abolished and reconstituted as Village Courts. Thirty-five Village Courts were constituted in 1118 immediately after the passing of the Village Courts Act, and 12 in 1119. All the villages in the State have now been brought under the jurisdiction of the Village Courts. Provision has been made in the budget for a conference of the judges of the Village Courts in the ensuing year.

Uplift Department.—The attention of the Uplift Department continued to be concentrated on the education of the depressed class pupils with a view to the amelioration of their social and

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economic conditions. Award of stipends, supply of school requisities and cloths and feeding in Hill-tract Schools continued as usual, though the expenditure under these heads was unprecedently high. It is the intention of the Government to send every year Depressed Class students for post-graduate course of study outside th State. This year a stipend of Rs. 30 per mensem was given to one Depress Class graduate teacher in a Government educational institution for higher studies in Law in the Benares Hindu University. Two more Depressed Class graduates have been selected this year for higher studies outside the State. One of them joined the law college at the begining of the current academic year. The other has not secured admission yet. Steps have been taken to assign poramboke sites to the houseless among the Depressed Classes and to supply fresh water in the colonies. A non-credit co-operative society is proposed to be started in the Sivaramapuram Colony as an experimental measure with a capital of Rs. 5,000 to start with.

Fisheries.—There was grater activity on the part of the Department to increase the catch of fishes to meet the growing demand for fish. As satisfactory results have been produced by the working of the existing fish pond at Narakkal, Government decided to open another fish pond in the Cattle grazing ground at Narakkal at a cost of about Rs. 3,000. It is expected that the work would be completed by the end of this year.

As an experimental measure in pisciculture, fish farming with the help of fertilizers is proposed to be conducted in one and a half acres and if found successful, it will he extended to the other ponds. To increase the catch of shark and thereby secure necessary raw material for the manufacture of shark liver oil and also to augment the supply of sea-fish available for food, experiments in deep-sea fishing were conducted. These evperiments have proved sucessful and extensive operations on more scientific lines are now proposed to be undertaken. A batch of 20 persons is being trained in the art of catching shark and other big fishes and also in fishing in the outer sea with improved net and tackle. The possibilities of fresh water fishery are now being explored and as a first step Government propose to send one candidate for training to Calcutta where fresh water inland fishery has highly developed. There is also a proposal to send a batch of six candidates for training to be appointed latter as teachers in Fishery Schools.

I know much has been done in the past by my predecessors in office and the Government for the welfare of the villages and for the improvement of village life. However, I am more than convinced that much more remains to be done for improving the condition of the rural population, for providing their ordinary needs and comforts, for promoting their general happiness and for ensuring a better standard of living.

A definite, detailed scheme for the general improvement of village life and for the future development and creation of better villages has to be prepared. And I propose to have a three year-plan to make the village life worth living. Every village should be provided with extensive pasture ground for grazing cattle, common open-meeting places for the grown-up public, and extensive playing fields for the physical and recreational activities of the young and the old. More and better roads should be constructed in all villages and each village should be linked up with the other by a net work of well constructed roads. The Health Department should pay particular attention to rural sanitation and health and construct up-to-date sanitary latrines wherever necessary. Better tanks for bathing and more public wells in places where there is water scarcity must be provided, besides giving grants for digging wells by private individuals in their own lands. This brings me to the question of supplying good drinking water for the teeming population in the coastal areas. Though it is a difficult and costly problem to supply adequate drinking water to the inhabitants in these areas, there is no excuse for shelving the problem or postponing the decision. I understand that Sir William Stampe, Advisor to the Government of India on Irrigation, has proceeded to the United Kingdom accompanied by an Executive Engineer to study the methods of boring tube wells best suited for Indian conditions. He is visiting Egypt to study the modern methods employed by the army authorities in boring tube wells in the Middle East to provide water for the army. I understand that tube wells have become a success in Alleppy and Mankomboo in the sister state of Travancore. The soil of our coastal areas is more or less similar to those at Alleppy and Mankomboo. It is worth while for us in Cochin State, therefore, to investigate further very deeply whether the rural population in the coastal areas could be supplied with good drinking water by boring tube wells. Failing this, some other means must be adopted to provide good water to these neglected areas. In the meanwhile it will be examined if it is feasible and possible to supply Alwaye water by transporting it in barges or other conveyances to the localities where drinking water is an immediate pressing necessity. The

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investigations made by Sir William Stampe will he available for our guidance in tackling this problem of water supply. And I do not propose to rest contended until this most essential need of the rural population is satisfied with the co-operation of the Hon'ble Members of this House.

The live stock in the villages and towns should be improved and increased by providing more stud bulls on the subsidy system and by breeding up of cattle to the level of Scindhi and Kangayam breeds and by opening salvage farms for dry cows in towns. Stud goats also should be distributed in villages and municipal areas to improve the breed by local goats. Breeding and distribution of improved types of pigs should be undertaken and encouraged. Better seeds, more scientific manure and better agricultural implements should be supplied.

Model agricultural and dairy farms must be opened at least in all the Taluk Head quarters. These farms should be made educative and commercial. Encouragement should be given to private enterprises in Dairy Farming. And poultry farming should be developed. A detailed working plan will be prepared for the information and acceptance of this House.

I have in contemplation a scheme to provide decent dwelling houses to the middle class and the poor throughout the State including municipal towns by establishing Building Societies under the Co-operative Department. These societies will advance long-term loans covering a period of 20 years at a reasonable rate of interest to the members to purchase materials and to build houses according to approved plans. The loan will be made repayable in monthly instalments and the amount to be paid monthly will be only slightly higher than the rent that a tenant will have to pay for a rented house in a municipal area. If this plan is successfully worked, the poor and middle class citizens will get decent houses without incurring any debt and will become complete owners of the houses after a period of twenty years. This scheme when it materialises, will remove congestion in towns and improve their appearance.

More cottage industries should be started, the existing ones should be developed and private industrial concerns should be better encouraged. The scope for the starting of new industries and for the development of existing ones is immense. The professional skill and expert knowledge of the blacksmith community in the State could be better utilised for starting on a commercial basis iron and steel works in some selected centre or centres in the State where there are now ample transport facilities. All kinds of improved agricultural implements can be made and supplied to agriculturists at reasonable prices. Encouragement of this industry will give employment and relief to many poor people in the State, besides increasing the wealth of the State. Throughout the State, within distances of five miles, there should exist dispensaries to render medical aid to the people. More Ayurvedic hospitals should be established and maintain to meet the growing demands of the people and to give adequate medical relief to them. Intensive vaccination and inoculation should be undertaken to prevent epidemics. Every village should be provided with a decent library with readable books and one or two daily newspapers.

The programme chalked out above for the improvement of our village life and for the development of rural economy is to a large extent an amplification of ideas contained in the opening speech of the Diwan President Sir George Boag in the last budget session of the Council. It is my earnest desire to see to the materialisation of at least some of the schemes adumberated above during my tenure of office. The success of the ministerial administration depends largely on the sympathetic attitude of the Diwan and the unstinted co-operation of the representatives of the people. In the administration of the departments entrusted to my care and in the carrying out of the various schemes that I have in mind for the amelioration and economic well being of the people in the villages I hope to have the complete co-operation and the whole hearted support and help of the Diwan and the Hon'ble Members of this House who represent the people of the State.

Announcement of Bills assented to by His Highness the Maharaja

The Secretary to Council: Sir, Under S. O. 5 (2) I have to announce to the House that the following Bills—passed by the Council have been graciously assented to by His Highness the Maharaja.

1. The Cochin Revenue Enquiries Act (Amendment) Bill.
2. The Cochin Court Fees Act (Amendment) Bill.
3. The Cochin Verumpattadars Act (Amendment) Bill.
4. The Cochin Panchayat Bill.
5. The Vagrancy Bill.

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